

The Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) An ostomy appliance having a collecting bag and a gas filtering assembly positioned in a gas path from an interior of the collecting bag to the surroundings, the gas filtering assembly having, in the flow direction of the gas from the interior to the surroundings, a pre-filter and a gas filter, the pre-filter comprising:

a gas entrance and a gas exit and, there between, a gas channel substantially defined by two opposed, at least substantially liquid impermeable surfaces defining there between a number of constrictions each having a predetermined, largest width, wherein a distance defining a gap between the two opposed surfaces, at the constriction(s), is significantly smaller than the largest width of the constriction so that gas flow through the gap is permitted more easily than non-gaseous material flow.

2. (Original) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the gas channel is oblong.

3. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the constrictions comprises a rib extending along one of the opposed surfaces.

4. (Original) An appliance according to claim 3, wherein the rib extends along the direction of flow in the gas channel.

5. (Original) An appliance according to claim 3, wherein the rib extends across the direction of flow in the gas channel.

6. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein at least one constriction has a cross section having, at one side thereof, a concave part adapted to receive solid or liquid material.

7. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the constrictions are provided only at a predetermined area of the opposed surfaces.
8. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the constrictions in the gas channel have different lengths, the longer constrictions being positioned closer to the entrance than the constrictions of shorter lengths.
9. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the constrictions are provided as a monolithic element.
10. (Original) An appliance according to claim 9, wherein one of the opposed surfaces is defined by a part of a wall of the bag, and wherein the monolithic element forms the other of the opposed surfaces and further comprises means for engaging or attaching to the part of the wall so as to define the gas channel.
11. (Original) An appliance according to claim 9, wherein the monolithic element is at least substantially flat having two main sides, and having one or more constrictions on each of the two main sides.
12. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the distance of the gap is zero (0) in a first state and greater than zero (0) in a second state, wherein the second state includes a higher pressure within the gas channel.
13. (Withdrawn) An ostomy appliance having a collecting bag and a gas filtering assembly positioned in a gas path from an interior of the collecting bag to the surroundings, the gas filtering assembly having a pre-filter and a gas filter, the pre-filter comprising:
 - a first surface;
 - a second surface having at least one constrictive structure, the second surface positioned a first distance from the first surface so as to define a gas path between the first surface and the second surface and the constrictive structure is positioned in the gas path a second distance from the first

surface, wherein the second distance is less than the first distance and is selected such that gas is able to flow through the gas path between the constrictive structure and the first surface and toward an outlet of the pre-filter more easily than liquids, solids, and semi-solid materials.

14. (Withdrawn) The appliance of claim 13, further comprising:
a third surface positioned such that the second surface is between the first surface and the third surface and wherein an inlet of the pre-filter includes an opening through the first surface and the outlet includes an opening through the third surface.

15. (Withdrawn) The appliance of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of the at least one constrictive structures spaced to define channels adjacent to the constrictive structures in the second surface.

16. (Withdrawn) The appliance of claim 15, wherein at least one of the constrictive structure on a first side of the second surface defines a corresponding channel a second side of the second surface and at least one of the channels of the first side of the second surface defines a corresponding constrictive structure on the second side of the second surface.

17. (Withdrawn) The appliance of claim 16, wherein the gas path is defined over at least a portion of both the first side and the second side of the second surface.

18. (Withdrawn) The appliance of claim 13, further comprising at least one channel positioned adjacent the at least one constrictive structure so that non-gaseous material flow encumbered by the gap is directed into the channel.

19. (Previously Presented) An ostomy appliance having a collecting bag and a gas filtering assembly positioned in a gas path from an interior of the collecting bag to the surroundings, the gas filtering assembly having a pre-filter and a gas filter, the pre-filter comprising:
a first surface;

a second surface having at least one constrictive structure, the second surface positioned a first distance from the first surface so as to define a gas path between the first surface and the second surface and the constrictive structure is positioned in the gas path a second distance from the first surface, wherein the second distance is less than the first distance and is selected such that a gap between the constrictive structure and the first surface functions as a filter to permit the flow of gas and hinder the flow of liquids, solids, and semi-solids towards an outlet of the pre-filter.

20. (Previously Presented) The appliance of claim 19, further comprising at least one channel positioned adjacent the at least one constrictive structure so that non-gaseous material flow encumbered by the gap is directed into the channel.